

The Fermilab Speedway ----- It's NOT!!

The roads are clear, the sun is bright, and the urge to drive a little faster is lurking in the back of our minds. We have our sunglasses and are flexing our hands in our driving gloves. We should remember, however, that posted speeds on site take into consideration visibility, the condition and size of the road, traffic patterns and other safety factors. Double yellow lines, and stop, yield and other warning signs are posted based on safety considerations as well.



Fermilab has adopted as a minimum, the applicable portions of the State of Illinois Vehicle Code and the Illinois Rules of the Road publication. These are the same standards that motorists are legally obligated to observe when operating vehicles on public roadways in Illinois. The Laboratory reserves the right to employ more stringent standards to reduce vehicle accidents. The Laboratory's no cell phone usage while driving policy is an example of this.

Failure to follow these regulations on laboratory property could result in the issuance of citations by Fermilab Security and possible disciplinary action. Some examples of infractions that can result in a citation include:



- Exceeding the posted speed limit in parking lots.
- Exceeding the posted speed limit on roadways.
- Not coming to a complete stop at posted stop signs.
- Failure to yield right-of-way to vehicles where required, or to pedestrians.
- Crossing a double yellow line to pass any vehicle, except for Slow moving equipment after ensuring that it is safe to pass.





One of the hazards at Fermilab is the deer on site, which are especially active for several hours around sunset. You need to keep a watchful eye because the deer are not good about looking both ways before they cross the road (unlike the coyotes). There have been two reported close calls with deer in the past few months.

This is what can happen when you are distracted while driving. Fortunately the driver was not injured.

When driving conditions are less than ideal, additional precaution is needed. During the winter, speed should be reduced in rain, snow and icy conditions. The first hour after the start of rain is the most hazardous. The rainwater mixes with the oil on the road, which makes the roadway slick. The first few snow falls of the season can be particularly hazardous because drivers have either forgotten how their vehicle handles in the snow, or they may be new to the experience of driving in snow. Travel around sunset can be hazardous as well since the ice and snow that melted during the day begins to refreeze on the roadways.

Driving a vehicle on laboratory property should be no different than any work activity at Fermilab. Think about what you are doing, be alert for danger, and do not be in a hurry. Failure to do so could result in vehicular damage or personal injury, or both. Distracted driving can also lead to accidents, particularly when the vehicle in front of you stops unexpectedly, or you fail to notice a curve in the road. And remember, cell phone use while driving on Fermilab property is prohibited.

A little courtesy when driving is always a good thing as well.

—*Rich Ruthe*